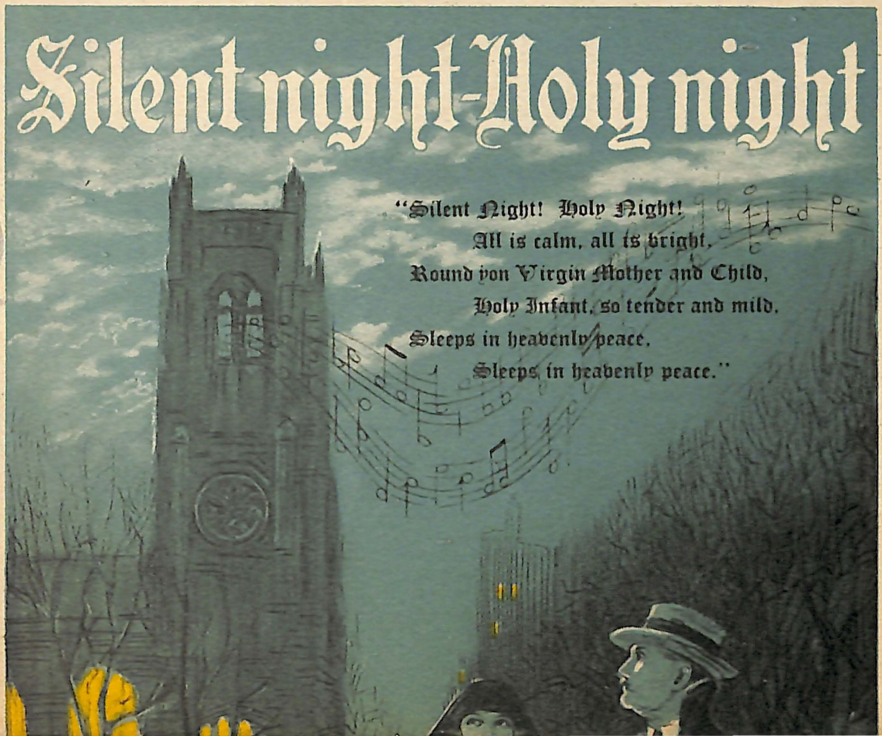
Silent night-Holy night


"Silent Night! Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,
Holy Infant, so tender and mild.
Sleeps in heavenly peace,
Sleeps in heavenly peace."

CLOSER TO CHRIST.

Jn. 13:23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of the disciples whom Jesus loved.

INTRO. The varying circles of intimacy with Jesus.
Many followed Jesus from afar
The 5000 fed
The healed and helped ones

The Seventy sent forth

The twelve whom X ordained "that they might be with him".

The three
With him on Mt. of Transfiguration
when he raised Jairus' daughter
In Gethsemene, sharing his grief

The one closest of all-John, the beloved disciple.

I. It is John who reveals most fully to us the inner life of Jesus.
In his Gospel reveals the very heart of Christ
In hisepistles portrays the highest type of Xn living.
In his Revelation John sees thru the world's turmoil and suffering and darkness, in to the gloryland of the better day to come- X's reign on earth and heaven's rewards for the true and faithful.

It was John who leaned on the Savior's breat during that last parting meal
who stood near the cross and to whom Jesus said, "Son, behold thy mother."
John first recognized Jesus on the shore of Galilee after the resurrection and said, "It is the Lord

II. And so it has ever been, these circles of varying intimacy with Jesus.
The multitudes who follow X from afar.
The lesser number who live with the Master
The few who enter with Jesus into the crises of life
The very few who lean onh his bosom of love.

From these loving souls we have received our devotional Xn literature and our wonderful hymns of praise. These are they who lift up the X and draw so many unto him.

III. Who may attain this intimacy with Jesus and how?

a- Whosoever will may come

A supreme desire and a full surrender to the love and will of Christ.

b- Having passed thru the door of Consecration into the heart of the Master, we find many helpers ready to bring us still closer to Jesus.

Prayer — Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you

Service - When X lived on earth where would you have gone to find him? Among the sick and sorrowing and needy ones, for among them he spent most of his time ministering unto them. Where will you find X to-day? Go among the sick and sorrowing and troubled ones of humanity, minister unto them according to their needs, and, lo, you will find Jesus.

The Fellowship of His sufferings.

In the world ye shall have tribulations, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Table. "In remembrance of me".

Con. The at last when we come to the end of our earthly journey, Death will come to us as another helper, bearing in his right hand the crown of life and in his left, the palm of victory!